The larger level of imports trade deficit during the current year is on account of increase in bulk import such as fertilizers, sugar and POL as also increase in imports of capital goods and manufactured intermediates which are needed to maintain essential investment, production and consumption in the economy.

Import Bills on ONGC

2691. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import bills of Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Dehradun had substantially increased during the last three years;

(b) whether the visits of Oil and Natural Gas Commission officials abroad had also increased manifold during the same period;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of imports of various items made during the last three years ending 30th June, 1985, the countries from which imported, the names of exporters and the value thereof;

(d) what was the total amount spent each year for the official tours along with the names of the countries visited by each official and the details of business done; and

(e) what kind of ancillary industries are proposed to be developed for reducing the import bills of the ONGC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Oil exploration in the Andamans offshore

2692. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pelased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil India Limited has decided to undertake oil exploration in the Andamans offshore areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost of operation;

(c) whether the Oil India Ltd. has been permitted to import Oil Rigs and/or Drilling ships from abroad for that purpose;

(d) if so, which are the countries which have come forward to supply such equipments and on what terms; and

(e) whether any technical experts' committee has been constituted for the evaluation of each of such offers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil India Limited plans to drill three erplorator wells, estimated to cost about Rs. 62 crores in the Andamian offshore during the VII Plan period. The drilling is expected to commence by April, 1986.

(c) and (d) The drilling is proposed to be done through a charter-hired drill ship. Offers have been received from firms in Japan, U.S.A., U.K. Belgium and Netherlands for drilling on a day-rate basis.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Applications for manufacture of passenger cars

2693. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of applications for industrial licences and/or COB licences are pending with Government for the manufacture of passenger cars with and without foreign collaborations;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the applicants and their collaborators or otherwise, since when the

applications are pending, and the details with which such licences are sought; and

(c) what further action Government propose to take to expedite the disposal of the same applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Name of Applicant	Date of Application	Name of foreign collaborator
1	Composite application for grant of Industrial licence and foreign collaboration approval from M/s Escorts Limited for the manufacture of one lakh passenger car per annum.	July, 1985	M/s Citroen International Automobile, France
2	Composite application for grant of industrial licence and foreign collaboration approval from M/s Gujarat Industrial Investment Corpotation Ltd., Ahmedabad for the manufacture of 10,000 micro-cars per annum.	November, 1985	M/s Jeanneau S.A. France.

These proposals are under consideration of the Government.

Grant of licence to M/s. apparel export promotion council

2694. SHRI GULAM MOHI-UD-DIN SHAWL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstared Question 838 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th November, 1985 and lay on the Table of the House the copies of the letters dated the 29th July, 1985 of Regional Director, Kanpur, reply of the Apparel Export Promotion Council dated the 8th August, 1985 and the Show Cause Notice, dated the 20th November, 1985 in regard to the violation of the Memorandum of Association and of Sectoin 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, under which the licence has been granted to Apparel Export Promotion Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Copies of Regional Director, Kanpur letter dated 29th July 1985, reply of Apparel Export Promotion Council dated 8th August 1985, and Show-Cause Notice dated 20th November, 1985, are laid on the Table of the House. (*See* Appendix CXXXVI, Annexure No. 51).

Industrial licences

2695. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of industrial licences and letters of intent granted for the whole country during the Sixth Five Year Plan Period—1980-81 to 1984-85; and

(b) the share of each State (in per cent as well as in number) in this total?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.